ACTION WHA-00

RELEASED IN FULL

INFO	LOG-00	NP-00	AMAD-00	A-00	INL-00	EAP-00	UTED-00
	VC-00	FRB-00	H-00	TEDE-00	INR-00	IO-00	VCE-00
	DCP-00	OIC-00	OIG-00	NIMA-00	PA-00	GIWI-00	IRM-00
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STATE FOR WHA/CAN, WHA/PDA
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E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: KPAO, KMDR, OIIP, OPRC, CA

SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION: CARRILES; WESTERN HEMISPHERE; GLOBAL WAR ON TERRORISM

CARRILES
1. "Don't protect Posada"
The conservative National Post stated (5/19): "Speaking to a Joint Session of Congress on Sept. 20, 2001, just nine days after 9/11, U.S. President George W. Bush declared: 'From this day forward, any nation that continues to harbour or support terrorism will be regarded by the United States as a hostile regime.' We agreed with that principle then, and we agree with it now. Which is why the United States must put Luis Posada Carriles on trial, or extradite him to a country that will.... The United States government is in an awkward position. On one hand, Mr. Posada is a man credibly accused of terrorism. On the other hand, Cuba is a longtime U.S. enemy, one the Bush administration has vilified with particular enthusiasm. Moreover, the political influence of Florida's Cuban-American population is legendary. Washington has given no clear signal what it intends to do with Mr. Posada. But a

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written statement from the Department of Homeland Security warily advises that the U.S. government 'does not generally remove people to Cuba' or 'to countries believed to be acting on Cuba's behalf,' which is to say, Venezuela. (Yesterday, the country's Vice-President said Venezuela would not deport Mr. Posada to Cuba if he were extradited to Caracas.) We can see why Washington would find such a prospect troubling: Cuba is not a democracy, and democracy is under threat in Venezuela. And both nations would likely denQ. Posada the sort of trial Western nations would recognize as fair. On the other hand, as Maher Arar can attest, in the years since 9/11 the CIA has sent terror suspects to dictatorships such as Syria and Egypt as a matter of course. It would appear hypocritical if the U.S. President carved out an exception to his 'Bush doctrine' in order to satisfy an ancient grudge against Havana. Although Mr. Posada's case may be obscure to Canadian readers, its disposition will have crucial symbolic importance to the war on terrorism. Mr. Posada's defenders in the United States urge that he not be extradited because he is not so much a terrorist as a 'freedom fighter.' But, of course, this is exactly the same excuse used by apologists for Arab terrorists who blow up Israeli restaurants and Iraqi recruiting centres. Whatever one thinks of Mr. Castro's island tyranny - and we certainly do not think much of it - it would be a major mistake to open the door to those who would cast terrorism as being in the eye of the beholder."

WESTERN HEMISPHERE

2. "For Martin and Stronach, it's lose-lose" Columnist David Frum observed in the conservative National Post (5/19): "...Stronach's decision to cross the floor will be remembered as one of the most spectacular acts of political misjudgment since Joe Clark called down a leadership race upon himself in 1983. Three days ago, she was a powerful figure inside the Conservative party, the runner-up in the last leadership race and a front-runner in any race to come. She was a media darling, as left-wing dissidents in right-of-center parties always are. At the Conservative convention in Montreal, Belinda's reception was the hottest and most glamorous, as she herself was the most glamorous figure on Parliament Hill. Now instead she sits on the Liberal bench as the head of a second-tier Qsits on the Liberal bench as the head of a second-tier ministry, best known for misplacing $2-billion in taxpayer money in the 1990s.... They say on Wall Street

that there's always a fool in the marketplace - and if you don't know who it is, it's you. And so it is in the marketplace that the Liberals have made of the Parliament of Canada. Unlike Jack Layton, who got a good price for what he had to sell, Belinda Stronach traded her reputation and her future for a job that will last only until this government's next crisis. And what about Paul Martin? What did he get? A few months' time, to be sure, and maybe he was too desperate to think about anything else. But was it worth it? Among Paul Martin's few last dwindling political assets is a vague sense among the Ontario electorate that he is a basically honorable guy who just happened to fall in with a bad crowd. That asset can survive only so many

shocks from contradictory reality - and it just suffered another. How many more can it take?... A number of newspaper columnists have been asking whether Stephen Harper can survive Belinda Stronach's defection. That's a silly question. The Conservative party is more united this morning than it has been at any time in almost two decades. Belinda never had any supporters in the party, only employees. And those Conservatives inclined to agree with her views are the very Conservatives who feel the most outraged by her betrayal: She has made them all look potentially disloyal, and they will rally to Harper in response. No, the leader whose survival is now in question is Paul Martin. His ruthless party now understands that it is in deadly trouble, trouble that is getting worse every day as Martin moves left, left, left away from the taxpaying Canadian middle. Some of those Liberals in vulnerable seats have to be wondering: Might we not be better off with a leader who doesn't lurch from crisis to crisis? One whom Canadians trust and respect? They are bound to wonder too: If the editorialists are right that Canadians want Liberal-style policies - but dislike the all-pervasive corruption of the Liberal leadership - maybe the solution is to find new leaders, leaders untainted by the fraudulent wheeling and dealing of the past 12 years? Stronach may well be right that her story demonstrates the need for 'renewal' in Canadian public life. But I'd bet that the leader who just took a giant step closer to being 'renewed' by his own party is not the leader she treacherously deserted - but the one who just rented her services."

GLOBAL WAR ON TERRORISM

3. "Riots and rage won't salvage Islam's honour"

Under the sub-heading, "Newsweek erred, but that doesn't justify violent protests and mayhem," Toronto writer and author of The Trouble With Islam Today, Irshad Manji commented in the liberal Toronto Star (5/19): "So Newsweek has retracted its report about the defiling of Islam's holy book, the Qur'an, by interrogators at Guantanamo Bay. But it's too late. Muslims everywhere are questioning America's respect for all religions. Journalists are wondering what standards allowed the charge to be printed without proof. Foreign policy analysts are asking how the riots incited by the charge will affect the war on terrorism. Still, at least one more question needs to be asked: Even if the Qur'an was mistreated, are violent riots justified?... One can appreciate the Qur'an's inherent worth, as I do, while recognizing that it contains ambiguities, inconsistencies, outright contradictions - and the possibility of human editing. This is not simply a reform-minded Muslim speaking. This is Islamic tradition talking.... Many will insist that I'm undermining the dignity of Muslims by challenging a pillar of their identity. By urging my fellow Muslims to consider these questions, I'm showing faith in their capacity to be thoughtful and humane. I'm appealing to their heads rather than only their hearts. Ultimately, I'm fighting not Islam but the routinely low expectations of those who practise it.... When people believe that certain aspects of religion are off-limits to questions, it doesn't take much to incite violence - or to withhold forgiveness. In the Nigerian case, even Qor to withhold forgiveness. In the Nigerian case, even though the offending newspaper apologized three times, Muslim protesters set its offices ablaze. Muslims worldwide are scheduling demonstrations for the end of this month against those who insult Islam. They'll peacefully protest not just the possibility of the Qur'an's desecration at Guantanamo but the proven torture at Abu Ghraib as well as civil rights violations suffered by ordinary Muslims in the United States. They have every right to condemn these injuries. Will they also speak out against the bloody, fiery riots that, in the name of honouring Islam, are killing an increasing number of Muslims and non-Muslims? It's a question worth asking."

DICKSON

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